

THE

HISTORIAN

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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

July 1999

JULY HAPPENINGS

The July meeting of the Hancock County Historical Society will be held at noon on Thursday, July 15 at the Kate Lobrano House, 108 Cue Street, Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi.

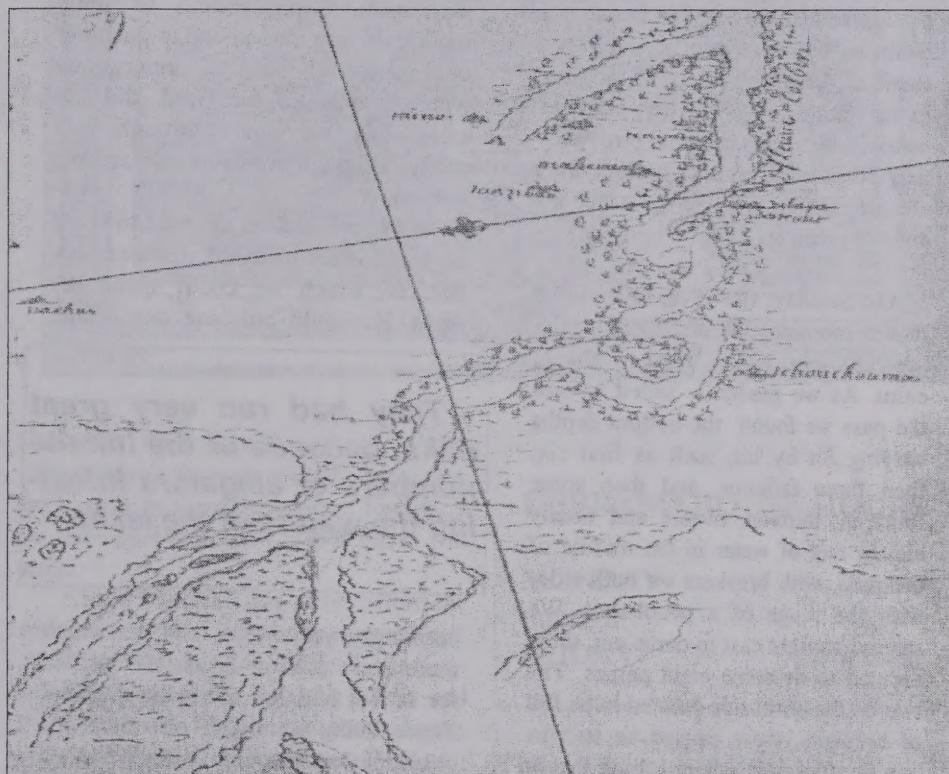
Our guest speaker will be Mrs. Prima Plauché, director of the Hancock County Library System. She will discuss the wonderful programs and services that our outstanding new facilities can provide.

Call 467-4090 for reservations at \$6.00. Thank you for remembering to call early last month. It was a great help in planning the food and seating for the luncheon and we were able to accommodate nearly everyone who called.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Like children impatiently anticipating the arrival of Christmas, we have been anticipating the arrival of the d'Bienville statue for its presentation on August 25th. The famous road that once was paved with good intentions is now being paved with bricks – bricks with your names on them. If you haven't gotten your brick, there is a form enclosed to correct that misfortune.

Early Monday morning, June 28, immense machines moved into the park and began excavations for the foundation for the statue. The subsurface slab of concrete is eighteen inches thick with steel rods throughout. (see President on page 3)



The mouths of the Mississippi drawn by Minet (La Salle's engineer), c. 1684.
Courtesy of Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa

The Voyage of Le Marin Part seven of a 1999 series

Pierre Le Moyne Sieur d'Iberville, having abandoned his search for a site for a French settlement on the lower Mississippi River, leads his men in longboats and canoes through the vast stretch of the river's mouth back towards the Gulf Coast where their five ships await them on Ship Island.

At the end of March 1699 we find the explorers navigating the turbulent

waters of the great river, still on the lookout for a site for a colony but finding stretches of inundated shoreline and islets ill-suited for a colony.

The Le Marin ship's log for March continues. Edith Back

On Saturday the 28th... The coastal regions extend for more than twelve or fifteen leagues, and consists of only two tongues of land, one on each side, this causes them to become inundated, they only being elevated a

foot above water. The two points at the end of this river run for more than twenty-five leagues out, as we noticed when taking our position, and they are shaped around like bags on both sides, these are full of a multitude of submerged islets, upon which there is no vegetation outside of some stick-like weeds and some wretched grass, they are full of dead trees which the winds and currents have thrown upon them. We found some wild cats, a bit larger than those of Europe and with heads like foxes. To kill them one hits them on the head with sticks. They smell of the marshes and of the fish, living entirely off the latter, with the possible exception of some birds they may sometimes catch. I believe they are amphibians. [These are raccoons and not members of the cat family.]

On Sunday, the 29th, toward five in the morning, we embarked again, scarcely any wind, weather almost calm. As we gradually sailed toward the pass we found the bottom depths varying bit by bit, such as first six, then three fathoms, and then some fourteen, thirteen, twelve and finally eleven feet of water in the middle of the pass, with breakers on both sides with the range of a pistol-shot. We steered straight east to come out, there seemed to be some eight passes. The two on the north side seemed to be full of breakers, these caused us to take one on the south, where I think that at high tide there might be twelve feet of water, but most of the time there are only two feet in depth, the seas being most of the time heavy at its mouth because of the shallow bottoms and of the swiftness of the current. Sailing out of the pass one finds some fifteen to sixteen feet of water.

When we found ourselves well clear, we sailed north along hillocks of sands that at a distance seem fairly well to bar access to the mouth, the latter ranging in directions west to west-northwest. We steered to northwest for two leagues. The winds varied from east to east-northeast, fine weather, we steered close. Around noon we saw an islet at a

masts' distance that we could not pass to the wind. About a league from this island, toward a point to the west we saw a quantity of breakers running to the southwest, and when we reached a position within good range of a boucaniere from the western tip of this island, being then clear of the breakers and not seeing any land to the wind, although the weather was clear and the eastern tip was laying a good league's distant in the wind, we decided to sail between the breakers and in case we ran aground on bottom to jump overboard into the sea and to push our chaloupes ahead, an emergency which, thanks to the Lord, did not arise since we went through very easily, although sometimes scratching bottom.

We sent a man up the mast to see if he could discern, in the distance, any islet on which we could spend the night. He could only see one island,

They had run very great risks, because of the infinite numbers of alligators infesting the waters of the lakes.

seemingly very large, and on which there were several lakes. He headed for it, but had much trouble landing. There being no depth of water our chaloupe ran aground some 15 steps from the shore; our men waded through the water; we carried Monsieur de Sauvolle ashore. In coming back they saw many fishes carrying a dart; one of them stung one of our sailors; the sting is so dangerous that it was thought at first that he would have to lose his leg, and he will not be about again for some two months. This is, in its middle section, only 10 leagues from the mouth of the river in direction north east.

On Tuesday, the 31st, around six o'clock, we hoisted sails in a gentle east to southeast wind, we made northeast to northwest, for fear of

over running the position of our ships, and also to reconnoitre the river. After proceeding along for a distance of a league, in the same wind, using both oars and sails, we sighted second islets forming a sort of depressed semi-circle, and between which there seemed to be no pass; they seemed merely a continuation of the coastal regions, being contiguous to the mainland; one, to the northwest, seemed made up of elevated soil and had large trees on it. We recognized it as an island only some two leagues remote from our ships, which gave us great joy, nearing now, as we were, to the end of the misery we had suffered during our terrible undertaking.

After having rounded this island, we perceived two of our ships laying to the west of us, this necessitated trimming our sails as the wind was contrary, blowing strong, and the seas very heavy. We rowed toward our ships, reaching them a little after noon-day. We learned that Monsieur d'Iberville had returned to the frigate that morning, together with two bark canoes, which had parted company with us more than sixty leagues up the river, using a small arm of water that discharged across from our boats, it being none other than a lake. They had been obliged to make no less than eighty portages because of the many trees they had found cluttering the waters of the small channel, these being piled up one on top of the others. He told us that they had all run very great risks, because of the infinite numbers of alligators they had found infesting the waters of the lakes. He also told us that they had seen more than two hundred wild bulls.

On that same day, Monsieur d'Iberville detached Messieurs de Villantrey and des Jourdis, both ensigns, to go and sound, for a second time, the depths of a river about ten leagues to the east of the isle opposite which we were anchored, to see if they could not settle our little colony of people there, having discovered no suitable place alongside of the river because of the inundations, most of the lands were continually under water.

Sinclair.

SHOO-FLY PAINTING DONATED TO THE SOCIETY

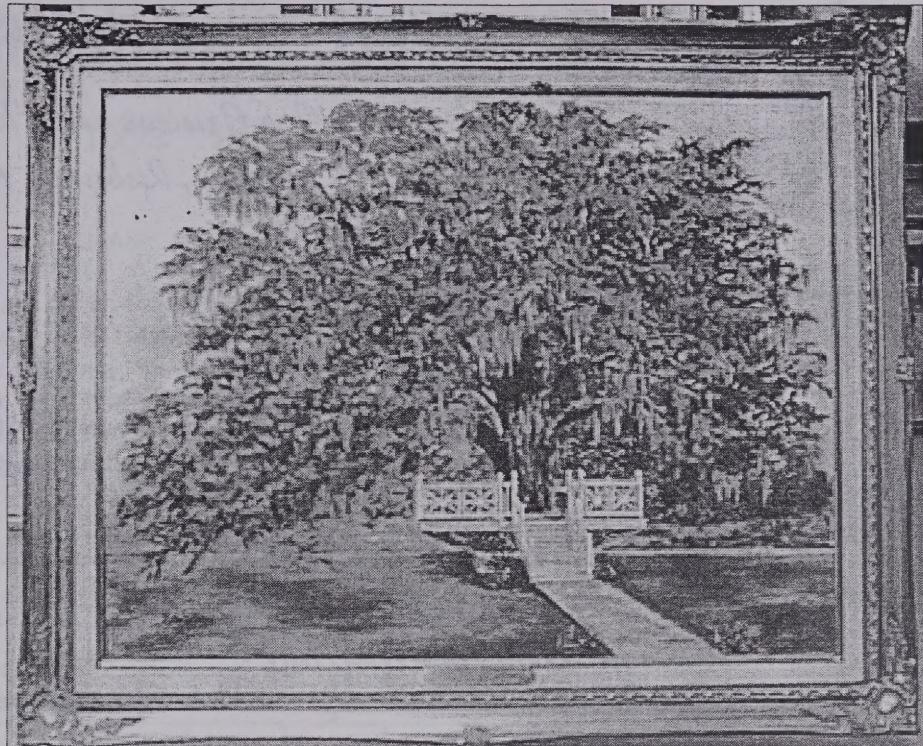
Larry Timmerman and Bill Johns of Memphis, Tennessee have donated a beautiful oil painting of the Shoo-Fly at the old City Hall to the Historical Society. It was painted by local artist Zita Waller and its return to Bay Saint Louis ends several years of wanderings around the country. It is being donated in memory of Dr. Larry Heller who was president of the Hancock County Historical Society from 1990 – 1991.

FAMILY RESEARCH BOOKS DONATED TO THE SOCIETY

Oscar J. Barabino has written and donated copies of four family research books to the Historical Society. They are *The Barabino Family, Descendants of St. Jean Barabino*, *The Hazeur family, Descendants of Theophile Hazeur*, *The Favre family, Descendants of Charles Favre and the Descendants of Perry Widow* and *The Collins family, Descendants of John L. Collins*. All four books contain extensive information and charts on these families. Mr. Barabino visits regularly from his home in California to research his families and tells us that although these books are very comprehensive at present, they are

NEW MEMBERS

Dianne Stevenson, BSL & Bronx, NY
 Marcel Baudot, Jr. Metairie, LA
 Fay Baudot, Metairie, LA
 Dwight and Shelia Stewart, Atwood, IL
 and Diamondhead MS
 Hubert Ladner, Jr., Lumberton, MS
 Gene Hidalgo, Winter Park FL
 Warren Johnson, Bay Saint Louis, MS
 Nina Cotton, Diamondhead, MS
 Francis Breeden, Bay Saint Louis, MS
 Mrs. Francis Breeden, Bay Saint Louis
 Karen Stockton Wallace, Meridian, MS



(President from page 1)

The rods rise through six inch thick concrete walls to form the support for granite slabs on which the six foot statue will stand.

The statue itself has arrived from the foundry in New York and is magnificent. Also the foundry has shipped the bas-relief replicas of the ships Le Marin and La Badine that will grace the columns across the front of Tercentenary Park.

In addition, we have had a bronze plaque designed and cast with a bas-relief of the Bienville statue in its center. Behind him is depicted the 31 foot bluff on which the city center is located. The inner circle is surrounded by the eight flags that have flown over the area, the inscriptions "Bay Saint Louis 1699 – 1999" and "Shieldsboro 1802 – 1875."

The dedication ceremony will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on August 25th and will be followed by a champagne and hors d'oeuvre reception at the Lobrano House from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Historical Society members, honored guests at the dedication and persons who have purchased bricks or plaques for the park are invited to this reception.

Charles H. Gray

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

| | |
|---------|--------|
| MONDAY | 8 a.m. |
| through | to |
| FRIDAY | 4 p.m. |

THE

HISTORIAN OF HANCOCK COUNTY

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| Editor | Edith Back |

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OCT. 30-NOV. 6th
NOV. 26-DEC. 1st

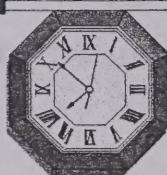
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TIME CAPSULE

Hancock County residents who would like their business cards or social cards (of the same size) placed in the Time Capsule that will be sealed in the base of the d'Bienville statue in Tercentenary Park, please bring them to the Hancock County Historical Society at 108 Cue Street, Bay Saint Louis before August 1st. You may write a message on the back of the card to your descendants, or others of your choice. The capsule will be opened on August 25, 2099 and the messages read.

TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION

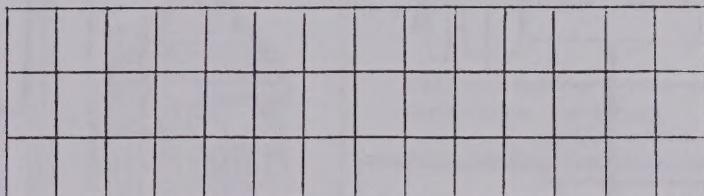
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1699 - 1999

PURCHASE OF ONE BRICK

This is an order of purchase for one standard size brick at the fair price of \$50.00 which will be inscribed as directed below and will be integrated into the overall design surrounding a life-size bronze statue of Jean Pierre LeMoyne, Sieur de Bienville. All engraved bricks will be in easy-to-read locations. The statue with its commemorative and memorial brick and granite surrounds will be permanently installed in the park next to Hancock Bank on South Beach Boulevard in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi. Unveiling of the statue and park will take place on the Feast Day of Saint Louis, the 25th of August, 1999.

Each brick may have up to three (3) lines and each line may contain up to fourteen (14) characters (including spaces).



Name of Sponsor _____ Phone _____

Address _____

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A separate form must be filled out for each brick ordered and payment or checks made to the Hancock County Historical Society, P. O. Box 312, Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi.

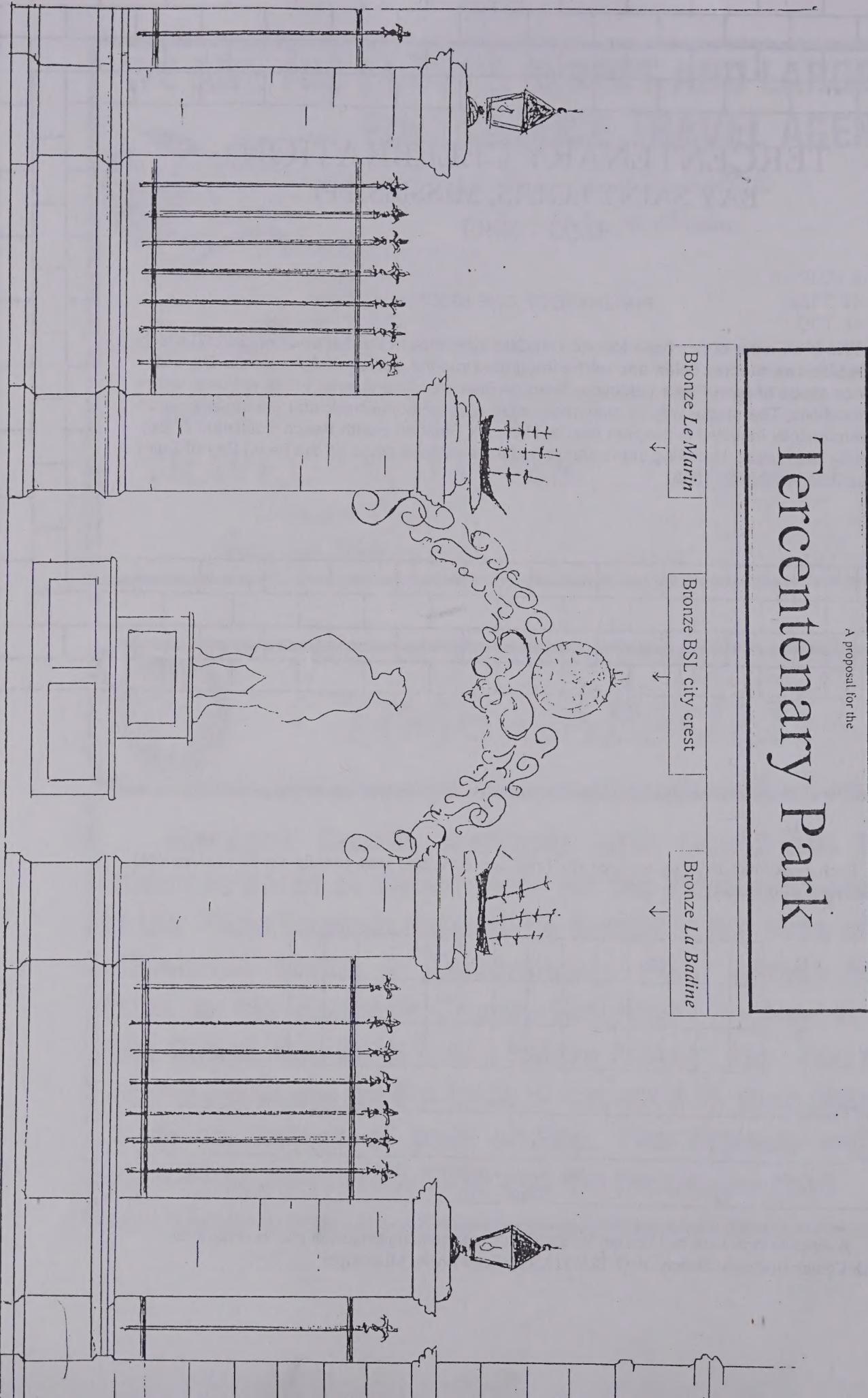
A proposal for the

Tercentenary Park

Bronze *Le Marin*

Bronze BSL city crest

Bronze *La Badine*



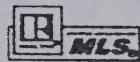
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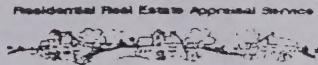
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